



**U.S. Department of Justice**

*United States Attorney  
District of New Hampshire*

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**MEDIA RELEASE**  
**For Immediate Release**  
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**NEW JERSEY MAN INDICTED FOR PASSPORT FRAUD**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE:** United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that a federal grand jury has indicted 30 year-old Bharatbhai Patel of Woodbridge, New Jersey on two counts for making false statements in attempting to obtain a U.S. Passport fraudulently.

The indictment alleges that Patel, a citizen of India, attempted to obtain a United States passport by attaching a counterfeit State of North Carolina birth certificate that falsely represented that he was born in Concord, North Carolina. Patel's passport application was received and reviewed by the National Passport Center in Portsmouth. Patel is charged with making a false statement to an agency of the federal government.

Patel was arraigned on these charges at the U.S. District Courthouse in Concord. A trial date is scheduled for March 1, 2005. Patel was released on personal bond previously set by a U.S. Magistrate Judge at his Initial Appearance in New York City, New York.

Patel's trial is scheduled for March 1, 2005. If convicted, Patel faces a maximum prison term of five years and a maximum fine of \$250,000.00.

This case was investigated by the Diplomatic Security Service of the U.S. State Department. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Mark A. Irish.

An indictment is only an allegation and not proof of criminal conduct. As in all cases, each defendant is presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.